

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

## 1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image information input means for receiving image information;

an image information storage means for storing the image information input through the image information input means;

an image processing means for processing the image information stored in the image information storage means;

a status manager means for managing the status of the image processing apparatus; and

an image information erasing means for erasing the image information stored in the image information storage means, characterized in that the image information erasing means is adapted to erase the image information in accordance with the status of the image processing apparatus managed by the status manager means.

## 2. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an interrupt commanding means for giving an order of a job interrupt; and

an interrupting job monitoring means for monitoring the status of the interrupting job directed by the interrupt commanding means,

wherein the image information erasing means implements erasure

of the image information in accordance with the interrupting job status monitored by the interrupting job monitoring means.

5 3. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2,  
wherein when the amount of information of the interrupting  
job monitored by the interrupting job monitoring means is  
lower than a preset amount, the image information erasing  
means erases the image information of the interrupting job  
10 stored in the image information storage means before return  
to the job before interruption; and when the amount of  
information of the interrupting job monitored by the  
interrupting job monitoring means exceeds the preset amount,  
the job before interruption is restored before erasing the  
image information of the interrupting job.

15 4. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2,  
wherein the image information erasing means is constructed  
such that whether the image information of the interrupting  
job stored in the image information storage means should be  
20 erased first before return to the job before interruption  
when the interrupting job monitoring means determines that  
the interrupting job has been completed or whether the job  
before interruption should be restored first before erasing  
the image information of the interrupting job, can be selected  
25 in advance.

5. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the status manager means comprises a time counter means for measuring the inactive time in which the image processing apparatus is not operated by users, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when the inactive time of the image processing apparatus based on the time measured by the time counter means exceeds a predetermined period.

6. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the status manager means comprises a time counter means for measuring the inactive time in which the image processing apparatus is not operated by users, the time counter means starts counting from when the interrupting job monitoring means determines that the interrupting job has been completed, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when the inactive time of the image processing apparatus based on the time measured by the time counter means exceeds a predetermined period.

7. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the status manager means comprises an erase command accepting means for accepting a user's erase command for

erasing the image information stored in the image information storage means, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when the erase command accepting means receives an erase command, even if the inactive time of the image processing apparatus based on the measured time by the time counter means is determined not to exceed the predetermined period.

8. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the status manager means comprises an erase command accepting means for accepting a user's erase command for erasing the image information stored in the image information storage means, the erase command accepting means accepts an erase command when the interrupting job monitoring means determines that the interrupting job has been completed, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when the erase command accepting means receives an erase command.

9. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the status manager means comprises a power source monitoring means for monitoring the status of the power source, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means,

utilizing the period from the time when actuation of the power saving mode is monitored by the power source monitoring means to the time when the operation returns to the normal mode.

5 10. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the status manager means comprises a power source monitoring means for monitoring the status of the power source, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means, 10 utilizing the period from the time when actuation of the power saving mode is monitored by the power source monitoring means to the time when the operation returns to the normal mode.

15 11. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the status manager means comprises a cancel command accepting means for accepting a user's cancel command for canceling the operation of the image processing means, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means 20 when the cancel command accepting means has received a cancel command.

25 12. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the status manager means comprises a cancel command accepting means for accepting a user's cancel command for

canceling the operation of the image processing means, and the image information erasing means erases the image information stored in the image information storage means when the cancel command accepting means has received a cancel command.

13. An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image information input means for receiving image information;

an image information storage means for storing the image information input through the image information input means;

an image processing means for processing the image information stored in the image information storage means;

an image information erasing means for erasing the image information stored in the image information storage means; and

a time slot manager means for managing time slots in which the image information erasing means is to be operated.

14. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the time slot manager means includes an operational status manager means which manages the operational status of the image processing apparatus during its activation to determine the time slots in which the image information erasing means is to be operated.

15. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 13,  
wherein the time slot manager means sets up the time slots  
in which the image information erasing means is to be operated,  
based on the past operational log.

16. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 14,  
wherein the time slot manager means sets up the time slots  
in which the image information erasing means is to be operated,  
based on the past operational log.

17. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 13,  
wherein when the image information erasing means is inoperable,  
the time slot manager means waits to actuate the image  
information erasing means until the image processing apparatus  
permits the image information erasing means to operate.

18. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 14,  
wherein when the image information erasing means is inoperable,  
the time slot manager means waits to actuate the image  
information erasing means until the image processing apparatus  
permits the image information erasing means to operate.

19. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 15,  
wherein when the image information erasing means is inoperable,

the time slot manager means waits to actuate the image  
information erasing means until the image processing apparatus  
permits the image information erasing means to operate.